

REMARKS

Pursuant to the present amendment, claims 1, 6 and 14 have been amended and claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1-3 and 6-20 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein.

Claims 10-13 and 17-20 stand allowed. Claims 14-16 were objected to due to an informality in the language of claim 14. Pursuant to the present amendment, claim 14 has been amended in a manner believed to overcome the Examiner's objection. Since claims 14-16 depend from allowed independent claim 10, claims 14-16 are allowable. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-20 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Dependent claims 5 and 6 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Pursuant to the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations from now-canceled dependent claims 4 and 5. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 6-9 are likewise in condition for immediate allowance.

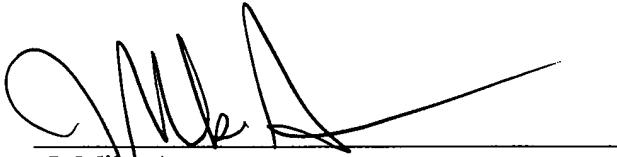
By virtue of the amendments set forth herein, the Examiner's prior art rejections are moot. By making the present amendments, Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the Examiner's rejections. Applicants specifically reserve the right to pursue the subject matter defined by the rejected claims in a later filed application should they so desire.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney

at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 12, 2005

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